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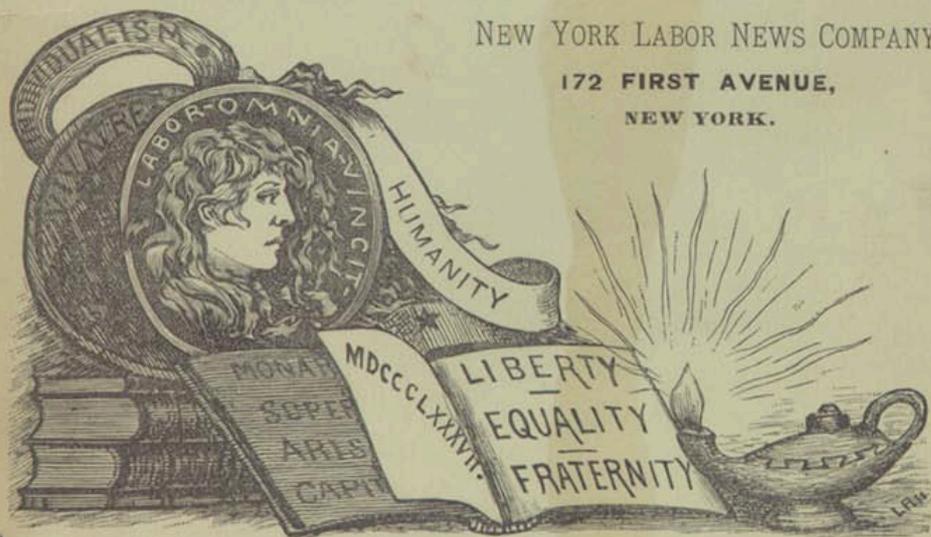
Report of the Proceedings

—OF THE SIXTH—

National Convention of the Socialistic Labor Party,

Held at Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 17, 19, 20 & 21, 1887.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS COMPANY,
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Report of Proceedings

September 17.

The Sixth Congress of the Socialistic Labor Party was convened at Turn Hall, Buffalo, N. Y., on the afternoon of Saturday, September 17, 1887.

Secretary of the Nat. Ex. Com., W. L. Rosenberg, called the meeting to order, and Com. Geo. M. Price, of Buffalo Am. Section, was elected temporary Chairman.

Comrades G. Metzler, of Philadelphia, and J. F. Busche, of New Haven, were elected temporary Secretaries.

Com. Philip Rappaport, of Indianapolis, moved that the official language of the Congress be English, but that every member be allowed to use his own language, which was carried.

A Committee on Credentials, consisting of Comrades O. Dorn, of Baltimore, P. Knickrehm, of Chicago, and Paul Zimmermann, of New Haven, was elected.

Recess of 10 minutes.

The Committee on Credentials being ready to report, the Congress was called to order, and the following delegates were reported with credentials:

Sect. Albany: Th. Fiedler, Cigarmaker.

“ Baltimore; O. Dorn, Machinist.

“ Brooklyn, Greenpoint and L. I. City: H. Szimmath, Shoemaker.

“ Bridgeport and New Haven, Conn.: J. F. Busche, Printer.

“ Boston: W. Isenecker, Cigarmaker.

“ Buffalo: G. Henke, Tailor.

“ “ Geo. M. Price, Editor.

“ Cincinnati: C. Ruemmele, Carpenter.

“ Cleveland: E. Wagenknecht, Shoemaker.

“ Sect. Chicago: P. Knickrehm, Cigarmaker.

“ Detroit: W. Krieghoff, Cigarmaker.

“ Dayton: Harry Vrooman, Journalist.

“ Erie, Pa.: Ch. Forth, Machinist.

Western Dist., New England: D. Sievers, Cabinetmaker.

“ “ “ “ Paul Zimmermann, Cigarmaker.

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Hudson County, N. J., Sect.: K. Willhausen, Cigarmaker.

“ “ “ “ J. Eulenstein, Weaver.

Sect. Indianapolis: Ph. Rappaport, Editor.

“ Kansas City: J. Trautwein, Tailor.

“ Lawrence, Mass.: Louis Martin, Weaver.

“ Milwaukee: Paul Grottkau, Editor.

“ Minneapolis: B. Goldfarb, Cigarmaker.

“ Morrisania: C. Holzhauer, Cigarmaker.

“ New Bedford: J. Palme, Weaver.

“ New York: C. Arnold, Cigarmaker.

“ H. W. Fabian, Civil Engineer.

“ L. Gronlund, Author.

“ Alex. Jonas, Journalist.

“ L. H. Walther, Cigar Manufacturer.

“ Philadelphia: L. Werner, Journalist.

“ “ G. Metzler, Cigar Manufacturer.

“ Pittsburg: Ch. Loether, Cigarmaker.

“ Rochester: J. Gubler, Blacksmith.

“ St. Louis: Max Stoehr, Machinist.

“ Syracuse: C. Ibsen, Machinist.

“ Troy: F. Coufal, Tailor.

“ Wilmington: Gustav Reinecke, Machinist.

Nat. Ex. Com.: W. L. Rosenberg, Teacher.

Nat. Board Superv.: Carl Altenbernd, Cigarmaker.

Report accepted.

Com. Holzhauer moved that the order of business be the same as that of the last Congress, held at Cincinnati. *Carried.*

Com. Gronlund was elected permanent Chairman for the afternoon.

The temporary Secretaries were made permanent for the afternoon.

Voted that Press, Auditing and Investigating Committees be elected.

Voted that the Press Committee consist of fifteen, and the following comrades were elected on that committee (including representatives of the labor press per vote): Grottkau, Werner, Price, Rosenberg, Busche, Rappaport, Fabian, Walther, Stoehr, Loether, Zimmermann, Dorn, Jonas, Szimmath and Knickrehm.

The following named comrades were elected on the Investigating Committee: Arnold, Holzhausen, Ruemmele, Willhausen and Trautwein.

The following named comrades were elected on the Audit-

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ing Committee: Isenecker, Zimmermann and Eulenstein.

Motion to elect a special committee for the outside press was referred to the Press Committee.

Secretary Rosenberg read congratulatory letters from the Chicago Central Labor Union and the Ladies' Socialist Society of New Bedford, Mass.

The report of the National Executive Committee was read by Secretary Rosenberg and accepted.

Com. Rosenberg announced that he had received reports from the socialist parties of England, France, Spain, Italy and Denmark, containing congratulations, and it was voted that they be printed, and plates furnished to labor papers applying for same and paying expenses.

Voted, that suitable resolutions in regard to the Chicago "anarchist" affair be prepared, and referred to the Press Committee.

Voted to adjourn till 9 o'clock next Monday morning.

September 19.

Second Session of the Congress at 9 o'clock, A. M.

W. Kriechoff, from Detroit, was elected Chairman; Th. Fiedler, from Albany, Vice-Chairman.

Two Secretaries were elected: H. Walther, from New York, and Phil. Rappaport, from Indianapolis.

The minutes of Saturday's proceedings were read in German and English.

It was moved that the German minutes be so corrected as to show that a dispatch of congratulation had come from Holland, that the reports of the other foreign countries also contained congratulations, and that all the delegates who are journalists were for that reason made members of the Press Committee. With these corrections the minutes were adopted.

The English minutes were read, with the correction that every delegate be allowed to use the language which he may choose.

Mr. Metzler moved that a Platform Committee be elected. Adopted.

It was resolved that the committee consist of seven.

The following delegates were elected: Walther, from New York; Gronlund, from New York; Ibsen, from Syracuse; Met-

zler, from Philadelphia; Fabian, from New York; Vrooman, from Dayton, and Zimmermann, from New Haven.

Zimmermann proposed to follow the order of business as proposed in the party organ, with the addition of determining the relation of the party to the United Labor Party, Union Labor Party and Progressive Labor Party. Adopted.

Werner, from Philadelphia, moved that a Committee on Constitution be elected.

A motion to lay this upon the table was adopted.

Rappaport moved that all propositions made by the different sections, referring to changes in the platform, be referred to the Committee on Platform. Adopted.

The first business now in order being the consideration of the proposition made by the International Workingmen's Association, the headquarters of which are in Denver, Col., to unite with the Socialistic Labor Party. The Secretary of the Executive Committee read a number of communications and documents in reference to this proposition, written by Burnette L. Haskell, from Denver, Col.

The organization claims to have 2,000 members paying dues in Washington Territory and Oregon, 1,800 in California, 2,000 in Colorado, Utah, Montana, Dakota, etc. It claims that the Sailors' Union, in San Francisco, with 3,800 members, the Fishermen's Union, in Astoria, 2,000; the Longshoremen's and Miners' Assemblies, in Oregon, will become members as soon as the union will be perfected.

The communication also contains propositions to change the name of the organization, to raise the dues to 50 cents a month, and to change tactics and the mode of organization.

Metzler, from Philadelphia, spoke against the proposition of uniting with the I. W. A.

Jonas, from New York, said we could not act in this matter unless good reliable information can be had of the character of that organization.

Jonas moved to refer the matter to a committee of three to gather information.

Stoehr expressed the fear that the organization is not free from Anarchism.

Harry Vrooman made a lengthy statement of the doings and tactics of the I. W. A., and assured the Congress that the character of the organization is not Anarchistic, but that the principle of the organization is for that of State Socialism or Social Democracy.

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Fabian, Knickrehm and Grottkau participated in the discussion, and advocated the union of all Socialistic elements.

Upon motion, it was resolved to grant only five minutes to each speaker.

After a long discussion, the motion of Jonas to appoint a committee to gain information of the character of the I. W. A. and to propose some action was adopted, and Loether, Vrooman, Rosenberg, Gronlund and Busche were elected as members of the committee.

Adjourned till half-past 2 o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

The Congress was called to order at 2:30 P. M.

Max Stoehr, of St. Louis, was made Chairman; G. Metzler, of Philadelphia, Vice-Chairman; Carl Ibsen, of Syracuse, and Lawrence Gronlund, of New York, Secretaries.

Congratulatory telegrams were read from the Indianapolis Section and the Socialistic Democracy Federation of London, England. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

Philip Rappaport, of Indianapolis, introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the sections and their members that whenever one or more labor parties are in the field, to support the more advanced labor party; that is to say that party the principles and platform of which come nearest to ours.

At the very animated, lengthy debate which followed, the following comrades took part: Fabian, Eulenstein, Szmimath, Krieghoff, Knickrehm, Coufal, Gronlund, Busche, Arnold, Sievers, Werner, Forth, Zimmermann, Rappaport, Jonas, Walther, Trautwein, Metzler, Wagenknecht, Rosenberg, Grottkau, Isenecker, Loether and Holzhausen.

The previous question being moved and carried, and a number of amendments and substitutes by Walther, Werner, Jonas, Trautwein, Fabian, Wagenknecht, Grottkau and Busche having been introduced, it was resolved to refer them, together with the original resolution, to a committee, consisting of Grottkau, Werner, Dorn and Walther.

After reading the German and English minutes of the forenoon session, adjourned to 9 o'clock Tuesday morning.

September 20.

The Congress was called to order by Secretary Rosenberg at 9 o'clock. G. Metzler was chosen Chairman; C. Holzhauer, Vice-Chairman; O. Dorn, German Secretary, and Harry C. Vrooman, English Secretary. Roll call and reading of minutes of last session followed. Minutes in both German and English adopted as read. Committee on Resolutions called—not ready. Press Committee report. Fabian, of New York, read a report in German.

After the reading of the German report, Comrade Werner moved the Congress go into Executive Session. Carried.

Congress went into Executive Session and heard the report of Committee on Press.

I.

Whereas, Our party organs, *Der Sozialist* and the *Workmen's Advocate*, form the very soul and backbone of our party, and

Whereas, These organs have not been sufficiently supported by our comrades, as well as our local socialistic press with regard to agitation and circulation, in order to keep them self-supporting, be it

Resolved, To recommend to the members of our party that the monthly dues to the Nat. Ex. Com. be raised from 5¢. to 10¢., thus enabling our Ex. Com. to render proper assistance to said organs; and

Resolved, To recommend the founding of a permanent press fund, to be administered by the Nat. Ex. Com.; and

Resolved, To recommend to our local socialist press to agitate in favor of our party organs in order to increase their circulation, and by doing so enable them to yield a surplus which may be used for agitation purposes.

II.

Resolved, To remove the *Workmen's Advocate* to New York leaving details of time to the National Executive Board.

Com. Jonas moved to adopt resolution I. At the very lengthy debate concerning the raising of the dues to the Nat. Ex. Com., the following comrades took part: Martin, Eulenstein, Werner, Sievers, Stoehr, Trautwein, Coufal, Rosenberg, Isenecker, Jonas, Palme, Busche, Knickrehm, Loether, Rei-

necke, Holzhauser, Walther and Szimmath.

A motion by Walther to decide at once, whether the Congress wishes to sustain *Der Sozialist* and the *Workmen's Advocate* as party organs, was passed. Proceeded to vote by roll call.

The following comrades voted in favor of raising the dues: Fiedler, Dorn, Szimmath, Isenecker, Busche, Henke, Price, Ruummele, Knickrehm, Vrooman, Forth, Sievers, Zimmermann, Rappaport, Trautwein, Goldfarb, Holzhauser, Arnold, Fabian, Gronlund, Jonas, Walther, Werner, Metzler, Loether, Stoehr, Reinecke, Ibsen and Krieghoff. Opposed: Coufal, Gubler, Palme and Martin. Comrades Wagenknecht, Willhausen and Eulenstein abstained from voting.

First resolution carried.

The Press Committee offered the following resolution:

I.

Whereas, The establishment of a general and job printing office, owned and controlled by the party under proper and intelligent management, will be of great benefit to our party, be it

Resolved, To form such a printing office as soon as possible, entrusting the details of time, etc., to the Nat. Ex. Com.; and

Whereas, Funds are necessary for this purpose,

We request, The Section of New York to devote the proceeds of the fair arranged to take place about the end of December next, for the benefit of said printing office; and

We request, The various sections of our party to take part in this fair by donations as well as by sale of tickets, or to arrange special fairs for the same purpose;

We request, The various sections to do all in their power for the emission of one dollar loans to be issued.

Voted and carried.

The resolution to remove the *Workmen's Advocate* also passed.

Tho, following resolution of Section New York was then taken up:

Whereas, In many places in this country, especially in the larger cities, there are newspapers, workmen's halls, schools, etc., founded by socialists, and which now are dependent upon the support and self-sacrifice of our comrades;

Whereas, These undertakings have, during the course of years, withdrawn themselves from the control of the party,

and exhibit in their workings only ordinary business motives, not allowing membership in the party to influence them in the engagement of employees, we declare the recovery of these enterprises within the control of the party as desirable and attainable.

In the meantime the members *en masse* should use their influence to secure the engagement of intelligent, capable and honest party members in these institutions in preference to others.

Trantwein moved to table resolution. Lost. A very animated discussion took place, in which Stoehr, Rappaport, Fabian, Walther, Werner and Jonas participated.

Fabian and Jonas, as opponents, were granted full time.

At 12 o'clock the discussion was interrupted. The Congress adjourning till 2 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The session was called to order by Comrade W. Rosenberg at 2¹/₂ P. M. Max Stoer was elected Chairman; Trautwein, Vice-Chairman, and Rosenberg and Forth, Secretaries. The discussion concerning motion of Section New York was continued, and followed by Szimmath, Arnold, Holzhauer, Metzler, Busche and Walther.

Krieghoff moved the resolution to be referred to the Section New York. Carried by 26 to 8.

Fiedler, Dorn, Busche, Henke, Price, Rummele, Forth, Sievers, Zimmermann, Eulenstein, Rappaport, Trautwein, Martin, Grottkau, Golfarb, Gronlund, Jonas, Werner, Metzler, Loether, Gubler, Stoehr, Coufal, Reinecke, Ibsen and Krieghoff voted in favor of; Szimmath, Isenecker, Wagenknecht, Knickrehm, Willhausen, Arnold, Fabian and Walther against the motion.

The Press Committee offered the following resolutions:

I.

Resolved, To recommend to the members wherever one or more labor parties are in the field, to support that party which is the most progressive; that is, the platform and principles of which comes nearest to ours, and at least recognizes the conflict between capital and labor; but members shall not be permitted to participate in the forming of new parties, when there is no well-founded reason to believe that the same

shall fully recognize our principles.

With regard to the practical application of these tactics, be it provided, that if a decision has been made by the local section or district organization in the premises, it shall be binding upon the members; and no member shall take part in such political movement if the section or district has decided against it.

II.

The convention recommends to the members of the party to urge the local press established by socialist co-operative societies, to furnish full quarterly accounts from their books regarding their business transactions to the Nat. Ex. Com.

Jonas moved that with regard to the resolution I, it may have no retractive effect, which was found self-understood.

Rappaport, to strike out the words: *And at least recognizes the conflict between capital and labor.* Holzhauer and Walther opposed.

Afterwards Rappaport withdrew his motion, understanding a labor party as recognizing this conflict by itself; the motion was then adopted.

The Press Committee reported the following resolution:

III.

The committee recommends to the Congress with regard to the attitude of socialists towards trades unions and the Order of Knights of Labor, the adoption of the following resolution:

Members are in duty bound to assist in the endeavors of the various economic organizations of wage-workers, by entering the ranks of such organizations, or to found such organizations as will prevent the economic degradation of the workers and improve their condition.

Members are in duty bound to foster our democratic principles in any trades union or K. of L. Assembly in which they may hold membership, in order to enable the members of those organizations to administer their own affairs, to recognize the solidarity of all wage-workers, acknowledge the irreconcilable conflict between exploiters and their victims, making these postulates the basis of their economic movement.

Werner offered the amendment, the Congress might oppose the founding of a National Federation of the German Trades Unions.

Rappaport moved the amendment to be tabled. Adopted, as

well as the resolution offered by the committee.

The Auditing Committee reported on the statements given by the Auditing Committee of Section New York, with regard to *Der Sozialist*, the *Workmen's Advocate*, the Party Treasury and the German Election Fund.

The recommendation of the committee to use the money of the German Election Fund, still in the hands of the Executive, for the benefit of the *Workmen's Advocate*, was adopted.

The Committee on Unity offered the following resolution

Whereas, A friendly offer of union with our party has been received from the Denver Socialist League,

Resolved, That we, in the spirit of fraternity, reciprocate the offer and welcome the outstretched hand; and

Whereas, The platform and principles of the Socialistic Labor Party are acknowledged to be complete, comprehensive and satisfactory to our brother's of the International Workmen's Association and the Socialist Leagues connected therewith;

Resolved, That said platform be the basis of the union.

Whereas, Many other socialist organizations in Chicago and other places in the Middle and Western States are believers in our platform and principles, though still isolated,

Resolved, That we shall welcome them, with our comrades of the Socialist League, to our party upon a formal acceptance of our platform under the provisions of our constitution, to the end that the socialist agitation and propaganda may be made the more effective, and our common cause finally triumph.

After a short discussion, the resolution was unanimously adopted. Moved and carried to hear the report of the platform. The motion to strike out the words in paragraph 4 and 5: "And that of the great bosses. It brings forth as its natural outgrowth." And to replace by: "And that of the capitalists. This system causes," was passed.

As the committee had not yet agreed upon some proposals to change the last part of the platform, it was decided to refer the whole matter to the committee.

Werner moved to enter into the discussion whether the name of the party be altered or not. Adopted.

Twenty-four delegates participated in the debate: Grottkau, Krieghoff and Dorn spoke in favor of changing the name to: Social-Democratic Federation or Socialist Federation." Henke, Price, Arnold, Fabian, Knichrehm and Wagenknecht were in favor of the more exact name of: "Social-Democratic Labor

Party." Zimmermann, Szimmath, Rappaport, Busche, Jonas, Trautwein, Forth, Loether Sievers, Werner, Ibsen, Holzhauer and Willhausen spoke in favor of maintaining the same.

Knickrehm moved to change the name to: Social-Democratic Labor Party." Jonas, to keep the name. The vote cast was as follows:

Isenecker, Busche, Ruemmele, Vrooman, Forth, Sievers, Zimmermann, Willhausen, Eulensten, Rappaport, Trautwein, Martin, Goldfarb, Holzhauer, Palme. Arnold, Fabian, Gronlund, Jonas, Walther, Metzler, Loether, Gubler, Stoehr, Cofal, Reinecke and Ibsen (27), voted in favor of keeping the same.

Fiedler, Dorn, Szimmath, Henke, Price, Wagenknecht, Knickrehm, Grottkau and Palme against it. Szimmath, and Knickrehm explained why they voted against it.

A Committee on Constitution was proposed, and Comrades Holzhauer, Arnold, Isenecker, Palme and Martin were elected as such. Adjournment 6 o'clock.

September 21.

The Congress was called to order at 9 o'clock.

Trautwein acted as Chairman, and Sievers as Vice-Chairman; Gronlund was selected as English, and Altenbernd as German Secretary.

The minutes of the preceding day were read and approved.

Of the delegates, Fabian had departed for New York.

Metzler, of the Platform Committee, moved the following amendments to the theoretical part of the Socialist platform:

To strike out all from line 37 on page 1, to "Demands," on page 2, and insert:

"This system, however, carries within itself the germs of a new organization of humanity in the modern industrial States, both economically and morally.

"By the evolution of this system to its highest pitch, the dispossessed working masses will at last become opposed to a comparatively few despotic chiefs of industry, and by reason of the unbearable uncertainty of existence, the former will find themselves compelled to abolish the wage system and establish the co-operative society.

"The basis of a co-operative society stipulates the substitution of public ownership for private ownership of land, in-

struments of labor (machines, factories, etc.), and with it co-operative production and guarantee of a share in the product in accordance with the service rendered by the individual to society.

“The Socialistic Labor Party bases its name as a Labor Party upon the acknowledgment of the oppression of the class of wage-workers by the class of capitalists.” Adopted.

On motion of Rosenberg, the following part of the platform was put at the beginning of the Social-Political Demands: “We consider it the highest duty of the Government and Legislatures to assist in the changing of the present economical conditions into a co-operative society, by proper legislation, in order to avoid a conflict between the possessors and the non-possessors; for that purpose we strive for the acquisition of political power with all appropriate means.”

The motion of Eulenstein to replace the words: “government and legislatures” by “society,” was lost.

The, motion of the, committee to strike out the words: “fixed principles,” in § 3 Social Demands, and replace them by: “to agricultural labor associations,” was carried.

To strike the whole § 7. Adopted.

A motion to amend § 15, by adding: “Legal incorporation by the States of local trades-unions which have no national organization.” Adopted.

To insert between § 15 and § 16, the following new paragraph:

“Furthering of workmen’s co-operative productive associations by public allowances and supporting these associations concerning public works by the government, the States, and the communities.” Passed.

Rosenberg’s motion to place § 8, 15 and 16 directly behind § 3, and Trautwein’s motion to make § 17 the first section. Carried.

Busche moves to strike out the words: “temperance laws in § 11.

An amendment offered by Rappaport, to change them into “sumptuary laws.” Adopted.

Busche moved to strike out in § 8 of Political Reform, all after divorce laws. Negatived. Another to strike out all of § 8 lost too. A motion by Busche, to place § 8 among Social Demands adopted.

Moved to make § 4b the first section. Adopted.

Grottkau, from the Press Committee, offered a resolution in

favor of the condemned Chicago anarchists.

Rappaport offered another one. After a lively debate, by Grottkau, Rappaport, Arnold, Zimmermann, Rosenberg, Busche, Jonas, Metzler, Loether, Dorn, Gronlund, Walther, Eulenstein, Vrooman, Trautwein, Holzhauser, Werner, Knick-rehm, Wagenknecht, Sievers and Stoehr, adjournment was ordered till 2 o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

The session opened at 2 o'clock, and the following officers were elected: H. Walther, Chairman; L. Werner, Vice-Chairman; A. Jonas and J. F. Busche, Secretaries.

Debate upon the resolutions relating to the Chicago anarchist affair, which were presented by the Press Committee, and the substitute resolution by Rappaport, was resumed; and, after a lengthy discussion, those presented by Rappaport were adopted, as follows:

"The Congress of the Socialistic Labor Party assembled at Buffalo, although neither agreeing with the tactics nor with the principles of the anarchists, nevertheless declares the confirmation of the judgment against the eight Chicago anarchists to be unjust, to be dictated by prejudice and class-hatred, and to be an act of class-justice.

"It was generally admitted that none of the condemned men threw the bomb, and our conception of right and justice is not so developed, as that we could find any connection between the teachings of one individual and the acts of an unknown person, for it is a fact that even today nobody knows who threw the bomb.

"We cannot understand how it is possible to know the motives of an unknown person.

"The meeting, at which the bomb was thrown, was, according to the evidence, a peaceable one, and would have ended peaceably, if the police had not illegally interfered to disperse the meeting.

"We therefore declare that the decision is an attack upon free speech, and that the right of the people to freely assemble, and that its execution would be judicial murder."

The Congress then went into Executive Session.

The Press Committee reported upon the projected stereotyping arrangement.

Werner explained that the stereotype plates were not in-

tended to displace original matter, but to furnish our plates instead of those of capitalistic concerns.

Fabian's proposition was finally adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That we authorize the National Executive Committee to enter into combination with the publishers of the New York *Volks Zeitung*, with a view to establish a central bureau for stereotype plates.

Holzhauser then read the report of the Committee on Revision of Constitution, and the following alterations and amendments were, after a thorough debate, adopted:

To add under II., conventions:

"All acts of the convention shall be submitted to the sections for general vote."

To change the number of members of the Nat. Ex. Com. from 9 to {7} § 1, IV.

To change the number of members of the Board of Supervision from 9 to 7. § 1, IV.

Under Article V. shall be added to § 1, after the words: "and belong to no other political party;" following: "unless the platform and principles of such party recognize the contest between Labor and Capital as a class contest."

To add in § 2, V., to the first sentence: "but it is left to the decision of the National Executive Committee to permit two or more sections if required in consequence of geographical circumstances."

To add to the second sentence in the same section: "Existing labor organizations (trades-unions, etc.), may be united with the party as branches."

Strike out H under Article V.

Under Article V., § 6, strike out the words: "to a ward or district organization."

Under Article VI.,(Central Committee), § 4, instead of "five cents," it shall read "ten cents."

To add to § 8, under the same article, after the words: "until a new election of officers takes place," the following: "It shall arrange such an election mode as to render it possible to all members of their respective branches, to participate in elections. The same to take part in electing delegates to the Congress."

To change § 12, under the same article, as follows: "The section shall assemble every three months (January, April, July and October), for the purpose of electing officers of whom each time one-half shall retire. In extraordinary cases

(incapability of the Central Committee to perform its duties) the branches may be called upon to assemble in joint meeting as the section.”

To insert in Section Regulations, the following paragraph:

Charges against members shall not be debated until the special committee, to be elected for this purpose, has thoroughly investigated the case and reported to the section.

All charges have to be made in writing, whereupon the committee has to investigate the case and to hear the witnesses of both parties. A verbal process of each case has to be drawn up and to be laid before one of the next business meetings of the section.

The minutes, as well as the papers concerning the investigation, have to be kept by the Secretary, who has to inform the defendant, by letter, of the decision taken by the section.

Under the head of new propositions, the following were received:

By ROSENBERG: In order to make our agitation more effective throughout the country, we recommend the establishment of an agitation fund and the engagement of one or several agitators to work systematically at suitable seasons.

By ROSENBERG: To elect a committee of five to issue a manifest, similar to the Baltimore manifest, in which, in view of present conditions, an appeal to the working class shall be issued. Referred to the National Executive Committee.

By KNICKREHM: To publish the proceedings of this Congress in German, as well as in English, to be furnished to members at cost. And to print the Platform and Constitution in the Swedish and Bohemian languages.

By KRIEGHOFF, To add an Order of Business to the Constitution, as formerly.

By JONAS, Business shall be transacted at business meetings only when at least one-eighth of the members are present. Adopted, with Knickrehm's amendment, that sections must have a quorum at business meetings, but that the several sections may each determine how many shall constitute a quorum.

By ZIMMERMANN, and SIEVERS, that the monthly publication of pamphlets be suspended, and that only timely brochures be published.

These propositions were referred to the National Executive Committee for consideration.

On motion of Gubler: Voted that no member of the National

Executive Committee shall occupy any other office in the party.

The report of the National Board of Supervision was then read by Com. Chas. Altenbernd.

The Investigating Committee's report was then presented by Com. Trautwein, as follows:

In the matter of the Davenport Section, they reported:

Concerning the suspension of Section Davenport, after a long and careful investigation, we came to the conclusion, that it cannot be denied by the section, that the expulsion of Comrades Knickrehm, Hausen and friends, was a violation of our Constitution, as no regular investigation had taken place, though demanded by the expelled. The Section Davenport, on appeal to the Board of Supervision, refused to act according to the Constitution, and therefore was rightfully suspended.

In view of this fact, we recommend reorganization of Section Davenport and re-installment of the expelled members, for which purpose the National Executive Committee shall communicate with the Davenport comrades.

(Signed) Karl Ruummele, C. Holzhauer, C. Arnold, Karl Willhausen, Jos. Trautwein.

Adopted.

In the matter of the Providence branches, they reported:

Concerning the conflict between the two branches of Section Providence in regard to the Socialistic Hall, after a thorough examination of the documents and reports given by Comrades Walther and Rosenberg, we recommend the following resolution for adoption:

With reference to the resolution passed by the Cincinnati Congress—concerning private co-operative enterprises, halls, schools, etc.—warning against such undertakings, and with reference to the fact that the Providence Socialistic Hall has been reported as private property by these comrades, the same has neither to be considered party-treasure nor party-property.

The owners of the said building shall therefore be requested by the section to refund the \$563.77 advanced by the section, in order that this sum be used for its original purpose of agitation.

The National Executive Committee shall communicate with Section Providence to carry out this resolution.

(Signed) Karl Ruummele, C. Holzhauer, C. Arnold, Karl Willhausen, Jos. Trautwein.

Adopted.

In the Foster matter, the committee reported:

The investigation of the committee proved, that by changing of words, addition of prefaces, etc., an additional cost of \$84 has been caused, , which had not been stipulated in the first contract. In consequence, the Executive Committee cannot be made responsible for that amount, and is to be declared free from all further obligations.

(Signed) Karl Ruemmele, C. Holzhauer, C. Arnold, Karl Willhausen, Jos. Trautwein.

After discussion, the Congress resolved not to make a definite decision, but commissioned Comrades Gronlund and Jonas to arbitrate in the matter.

In the Aveling matter the committee reported:

After a thorough investigation of the written material (correspondence, accounts, etc.), as well as by personal knowledge of the case and hearing of witnesses, we came to the conclusion that Aveling's first bill was too exorbitant. And as he refused to arrange financial matters with the Executive Committee until he could not evade it, we regard this matter disposed of. Nor do we think a reparation of honor due to him. We therefore recommend to the Congress to request the Executive to pass a resolution to that extent, if necessary, and on engagement of agitators to make such arrangements in future with regard to their fee, as to avoid cases like this.

(Signed) Karl Ruemmele, C. Holzhauer, C. Arnold, Karl Willhausen.

Committeeman Trautwein explained that he had not signed the report, as he did not fully understand the matter. The report was adopted, leaving out the sentence beginning: "as aveling refused," and ending: "disposed of."

Comrade Paul Grottkau complained that his case, which was as important as any other in respect to the right of free speech, had not received sufficient attention from the party and its press.

After a lively debate, a resolution was adopted to the effect: "That Grottkau's cause be made a party cause, and that in future the National Executive Committee be bound to promptly render all possible aid in similar cases."

Voted, That the seat of the National Executive Committee remain in New York City.

Voted, that the National Board of Supervision be stationed in Philadelphia.

SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Walther then announced the close of the convention with a few ringing remarks, after which three cheers were given for Social-Democracy and the Socialistic Labor Party.

Adjourned *sine die* at 8 P. M.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website
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